

The coaches would like to thank you for the opportunity to coach your child in Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth baseball. We are looking forward to another successful year for the program, and in particular, a successful, enjoyable year for this team. In order to make this year a success, we have some specific rules that everyone – players, coaches and parents – must comply with. The purpose of this letter is to outline some of the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth philosophy and to present some of the rules that we must all follow.

PHILOSOPHY: Throughout this season, we are going to teach the game of baseball the best way we know how. While winning all of our games would be an exceptional accomplishment, Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth baseball was established as a national program with the more important philosophy of teaching good baseball fundamentals to all players. If good, solid fundamentals are taught properly at all Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth levels, all children in the program will learn how to play baseball, will increase their baseball abilities, will learn a greater appreciation for baseball, and will throughout their life enjoy the game of baseball. It should also provide a solid base for those players who want to move to higher levels of competition. We also believe in teaching fundamentals and ensuring that your child learns to enjoy the game of baseball. The coaches have high expectations for your child, and we will expect them to follow directions.

When implementing this philosophy, we may make decisions throughout the season that you question, or with which you may not agree. Please understand, that in keeping with the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth philosophy, the decisions we make during the season are hopefully for the benefit of all players. With that in mind, please wait 24 hours before talking with the head coach about decisions that were made. We want to keep open communication with our parents, but we know when someone is upset, communication can break down. A 24 hour time period allows everyone a chance to think, reflect and calmly address the issue. The coaches are interested in your concerns and/or issues, and are willing to explain the philosophy, or reasoning for any decisions made on the field.

RULES AND TEAM EXPECTATIONS:

1. **Sportsmanship:** This is our primary importance. Good sportsmanship is of the utmost importance to our children, not only as baseball players, but also as people. We expect nothing less than their full commitment to this rule both in practice and game. We will require that every player respect the others on this team, the other players and coaches in the league, as well as their fans, classmates and anyone else with whom they come in contact. Any disrespect that we observe on or off the field will not be tolerated. Because we are role models as coaches and parents, it is only fair to hold ourselves and the parents to the same standard.
2. **Umpires:** The respect outlined in the previous paragraph also applies to the umpires at every game. Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth has a “zero tolerance” policy when it comes to how the umpires are treated during the game. This means that if any player, coach or individual watching the game exhibits questionable behavior, or is verbally abusive in any fashion toward the umpires, other players or coaches, that player, coach or other individual will be asked to leave the game immediately. Play will be suspended until the player, coach or other individual leaves. Please be advised, if the umpire requests that a player’s parent and/or other family associate leave and this is not immediately complied with, the coach and player will also be required to leave. This ejection will further result in the parent having to appear before the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Executive Board before the player will be allowed to play any future games.
3. **Be Prepared:** For both practices and games please dress accordingly for Idaho spring weather. Players will be required to wear their complete uniform and cleats for all games. Make sure to bring personal water bottles, bats, gloves, and an athletic supporter and protective cup to all practices and games.
4. **Punctuality:** Please make every effort to have your child at the practice and game at the specified times (practice 10 minutes before start time and games 45 minutes before start time).
5. **Parent Participation:** If you want to assist at practice, please ask. However, please be advised that pursuant to Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rules, any person who is coaching or helping coach in this program is required to complete a coaching application and will be subject to a background check.
6. **Game Day Encouragement:** Parents, please feel free to encourage your player on game day, but refrain from coaching from the sidelines. That is what the backyard is for. The coaches are in charge of coaching and if you see something you feel your player needs to work on, please let one of the coaches know and we will work on it at practice. Also, please remember they are kids and will have good games and bad games and that is okay! 1 for 3 at the plate (33%), in baseball is considered a GOOD day, at all levels.
7. **Player Rules:** **Players are not guaranteed a particular playing position on this team.** In conjunction with the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth philosophy, we will attempt to have all players experience as many fielding positions as possible during the course of a year. However, it is still the coaches decision where and when each player will play. If a player questions a coach regarding an assigned position, the coach will have the choice of sitting the child for any inning. If a player wants to try a new position, they should ask during practice.
8. **Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Website:** The complete By-laws and other information can be found at the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Website (www.idahofallsbaberuth.org). It will be constantly updated with information as the season progresses. We encourage each parent to check it on a regular basis.